

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
11 RYE STREET
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Members Present: Rebecca Talamini, Richard Laborious, Tanya Unsworth, RuthAnn Lansner, Jim Richards, Nicole Vacila and Heather Spencer

Members Absent: None

Others: First Selectman Jason Bowsza, Deputy Selectman Marie Desousa, Selectmen Alan Baker, Selectman Charles Nodwell, Selectmen Sarah Muska, Tom Lansner, Peggy Hoffman, Robvert Leach, Joe Charson. Noreen Farmer and a few other

Press: None

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Ms. Rebecca Talamini called the Special Meeting to Order at 8:01 p.m. via Zoom Meeting: <http://zoom.us/j/3326833563>; Meeting ID: 332 683 3563

It was **MOVED** (Leborious) and **SECONDED** (Spencer) and **PASSED** (7-0) (In favor: R. Talamini, R. Leborious, T. Unsworth, R. Lansner, J. Richards, N. Vacila and H. Spencer; Opposed: None) that the Charter Revision Commission recess this Special Meeting of August 18, 2020 to continue the Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Commission recessed at 8:01 p.m.
Commission reconvened at 8:44 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone pledged allegiance to the flag.

III. Attendance

All in attendance other than Ms. Heather Spencer.

IV. Public Participation

None.

V. New Business

Ms. Rebecca Talamini announced as everyone knows, the Board of Selectmen have adjusted the commission's recommendation from after three failed referendums the budget will increase to 3.5% rather than having the Board of Finance make the final decision. The 3.5% is the failsafe. She requested discussion.

First Selectmen Mr. Jason Bowsza noted he believes the commission can either amend their report to reflect the changes the Board of Selectmen have recommended or reject those changes. He read from the statute which noted that the commission can either accept or reject the recommendations from the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen then will decide to accept their initial report or not to and disband the commission.

Ms. Talamini went to each member of the commission and asked their position. Ms. Talamini, Mr. Richards and Ms. Vacila all agreed with keeping the original proposal. Mr. Laborious noted that suggestions that have been recommended by the Board of Selectmen demonstrate the flaw in the charter. The arbitrary number used to increase the budget is not sustainable especially if inflation should start to rise which would increase all costs and would create many problems for the town. He noted that he would be amendable to adjusting the percentage as a temporary measure until the charter revision process could be done again with more significant changes. Mr. Richards commented that the percentage increase is an arbitrary number and only covers contractual increases, the increases do not support the needs of the town. The percentage is a fictional number, and everyone works from that number and not with the needs of the town. He agreed with Ms. Sarah Muska and Ms. Noreen Farmer. Ms. Ruth Lansner noted she agrees with the 2% plus inflation as it was explained which would be a 3.5% increase. She supports the Board of Selectmen's recommendation. Ms. Heather Spencer commented she was on the fence; she was not sure. Ms. Unsworth wanted to stick with the commission's original presentation.

A brief discussion was held.

It was **MOVED** (Laborious) and **SECONDED** (Lansner) that the Charter Revision Commission accept the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen for discussion.

A discussion was held. Ms. Laborious commented to proceed, the commission should support the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Richards noted he cannot support a percentage failsafe. Ms. Talamini inquired if the commission did not accept the recommendations, what would be the next steps. Mr. Bowsza noted this will be discussed at the Board of Selectmen meeting to either put it on the ballot or to reject. There was mention of a statute that would allow to petition the changes to the ballot, but the actual statute number was unclear.

A vote was taken:

In favor: R. Laborious, R. Lasnser and H. Spencer
Opposed: N. Vacila, J. Richards, T. Unsworth and R. Talamini

Motion failed.

Ms. Talamini asked Mr. Bowsza for the next steps in the process. Mr. Bowsza indicated that the commission has 30 days to issue their final report; however, in order to have it on the ballot in November, action has to be taken in six days. The final report must be given to the Town Clerk by the month. If the Selectmen's office receives it tomorrow, it can be put on the Thursday's agenda. Ms. Talamini indicated she will submit her final report tomorrow to the Town Clerk. She will take the tracking off so it will be a clean copy and will give a copy with the tracking changes so everyone can see those changes. It was asked if a motion needed to be done to accept the tracking changes and it was agreed those changes were already accepted and there was no need for a motion.

VI. Adjournment

It was **MOVED** (Laborious) and **SECONDED** (Vacila) and **PASSED** (7-0) (In favor: R. Talamini, R. Laborious, T. Unsworth, R. Lansner, J. Richards, H. Spencer and N. Vacila; Opposed: None) that the Charter Revision Commission adjourns the Special Meeting of August 18, 2020 at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz
Recording Secretary